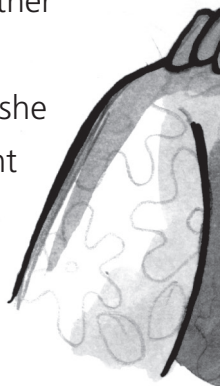# Chapter One
# Saying Goodbye

'There won't be any mangoes like
this where you're going, Lilli girl!' said
Lilli's grandmother. She slurped her
mango noisily and the yellow juices
ran down her chin. Lilli thought other
people might think her Nan was
disgusting, the slobbery way that she
ate mangoes, pulling them straight
from the trees, tearing the green
skin off with her teeth, and

biting into the rich sweet insides. But Lilli liked eating them that way too. Biting into the skin gave the mango a wild tang and the juices spurting everywhere was great fun. This was just one of the many things she would long for when her family moved to the city.

'I'll really miss you, Nan!' sighed Lilli. 'I wish we didn't have to go.'

She loved talking and laughing with Nan, sitting together on the old blanket under the big mango tree with the dogs.

'Don't look so sad,' Nan replied. 'You can ring me every day and visit me on the school holidays too!'

Lilli knew that was true, but it just wouldn't be the same.

'Come on,' said Nan, getting up stiffly. 'We'd better get you home. Your mother will be going mad, finishing all that packing on her own.'

Nan passed Lilli the washer she kept specially for mango clean ups. Lilli wiped her face and looked around Nan's beautiful garden one last time.

'We'll call in at your Uncle Bernie's house on the way,' Nan said. 'He wants to say goodbye to you and so do your cousins.'

Lilli felt even sadder. She came from a big family and she would miss every one of them when she was living in the city.

*I'll be so lonely*, she thought miserably.

Uncle Bernie was a great artist and as usual he was sitting on the front verandah painting when they arrived. Some of the paintings were about his country, some of them were just for fun, and others were things he had seen in his dreams.

'Oh that's wonderful!' Lilli cried

when she saw his latest one.

It was full of mango trees with bright golden fruit and red shrubs with rainbow birds perched in them.

'Thank you, bub,' Uncle Bernie smiled.